



DOROTHY M. HORSTMANN, M.D.

Introduction to the Festschrift

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It is a privilege to write a brief introduction for this special issue of *The Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* honoring one of the most distinguished members of our faculty. Dorothy Horstmann's ties with the Yale University School of Medicine extend over the past forty years. During this period she has established herself both nationally and internationally as a leading and highly respected figure in the fields of epidemiology and virology. She has studied a variety of viral diseases but is best known for her elegant and extensive work on poliomyelitis and rubella. Dr. Enders notes the importance of this work in his introductory remarks.

Dr. Horstmann is also highly regarded as a clinician and as a teacher. It is perhaps illustrative of her clinical acumen and her adaptability that, although she trained and originally worked in internal medicine, she became a pediatrician in mid-career. In her clinical activities, she has enlarged the scope of infectious disease to embrace its public health aspects. She has also been a staunch supporter of the integration of diagnostic microbiology and virology into the practice and teaching of infectious disease.

In addition to her accomplishments as a biomedical scientist, clinician, and teacher, she has contributed significantly to her profession and to this university. She has been not only a member of various professional societies but has been an active participant and a leader in the affairs of these organizations. She has also been selfless in her work for Yale and as a result has spent considerable time serving on the important committees that are essential to the functions of an academic institution.

After graduating from the University of California and holding house staff appointments in San Francisco, Dorothy came east for a year at Vanderbilt with Dr. Hugh Morgan. In 1942 she moved to Yale as the Commonwealth Fund Fellow in the Section of Preventive Medicine, then part of the Department of Internal Medicine, with Dr. John R. Paul. The Commonwealth Fund has made many major contributions to the Yale School of Medicine over the past forty years, and making it possible for Dorothy Horstmann to come to this institution and become involved in the early research on poliomyelitis is one of the contributions for which we are extremely grateful. But Yale almost lost her.

In 1944 she returned to her alma mater, serving for a year as an instructor in medicine. Fortunately she returned to Yale's Preventive Medicine Section in 1945

and became a member of the Yale Poliomyelitis Study Unit. She was promoted to assistant professor of epidemiology and pediatrics and in 1969 was appointed to the newly established John R. Paul Professorship of Epidemiology.

Over the years Dorothy has been elected to membership in many distinguished professional societies, including the Association of American Physicians, the National Academy of Sciences, and honorary membership in the Royal Society of Medicine. She has also received numerous awards, both in this country and abroad, in recognition of her outstanding work in the fields of epidemiology and infectious disease. This international acclaim has in no way altered Dorothy's commitment to her work as a clinician, teacher, and investigator. As I noted earlier, she continues to contribute to the betterment of the whole university by her willingness to give generously of her time whenever called upon.

Because of her objectivity, superb judgement, and impeccable taste, her counsel is frequently sought by fellow faculty and by members of the administration of the School of Medicine and the university. I know of no one on our faculty who is more highly regarded as a person and as a university citizen. As one of her friends recently commented, "Dorothy is the most civilized person I have ever met." Yale and its School of Medicine have been extraordinarily fortunate to have Dorothy Horstmann as a member of its faculty.

Although she will become an emeritus professor in June, Dorothy will continue her work as a senior research scientist in epidemiology and, fortunately for all of us, will continue to be an active member of the Yale community.